

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DEPT PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT: INDUSTRY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

REF: OECD PARIS 04936

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH MAY PROPOSE HUGUES DE L'ESTOILE, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY, FRENCH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH, AS CANDIDATE FOR IC CHAIRMAN. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARIAT HAS INFORMED USDEL THAT, IN THE EVENT NO OTHER DELEGATION HAS CANDIDATE FOR IC CHAIRMAN, FRANCE IS PREPARED TO NOMINATE HUGUES DE L'ESTOILE, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY IN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH. (MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.) SEVERAL DELEGATIONS AND SECRETARIAT HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR DE L'ESTOILE.

3. PRESS, SECRETARIAT AND EMBASSY SOURCES ALL INDICATE DE L'ESTOILE IS EXTREMELY BRIGHT, COMPETENT AND ENER-

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GETIC. PRESS HAS CALLED HIM A SKILLED NEGOTIATOR,

"WITH A TALENT FOR LISTENING," AND FRANCE'S LEADING ARMS SALESMAN (MIRAGE). HIS BIODATA FOLLOWS:

HUGUES ALAIN DE L'ESTOILE, AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER. BORN MAY 7, 1931 IN POITIERS. SON OF GENERAL MAURICE DE L'ESTOILE, AND DESCENDENT OF FRENCH AUTHOR PIERRE DE L'ESTOILE, 1546-1611. MARRIED 1954, 3 CHILDREN. EDUCATION: ECOLE SAINT-CAPRAIS IN AGEN; LA FLECHE MILITARY SCHOOL: ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE; ADVANCED SCHOOL OF AERONAUTICS. CAREER: DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY, FRENCH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH SINCE OCTOBER 1974; PREVIOUSLY HELD VARIOUS TECHNICAL POSITIONS IN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, RISING TO POST OF TECHNICAL ADVISER TO MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE DEBRE (1969-70) AND DIRECTOR, INTER-NATIONAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (1970-74).

4. IN A MEETING WITH EMBOFFS FOLLOWING HIS APPOINTMENT AS DG, DE L'ESTOILE INDICATED A COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD ESTABLISHING GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AS TO WHETHER US WISHES TO PROPOSE CANDIDATES FOR CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OR WHETHER WE WISH EITHER TO SUPPORT OR PROPOSE DE L'ESTOILE'S NOMINATION.

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